

Region 7 EPA - 30 Years of Environmental Progress

1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) enacted establishing basic national charter for protection of the environment ... Estimated 20 million people participate in first Earth Day event ... EPA is created and is initially tasked with primary responsibilities for environmental issues relating to air, water, pesticides, radiation and solid waste ... Clean Air Act originally enacted in 1955 is amended to establish first comprehensive national program including uniform national air quality standards ... **1971** Region 7 office and laboratory established in Kansas City, MO ... Cheyenne Bottoms, KS, designated as a wetland of international importance ... Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act enacted ... **1972** Waste oil containing dioxin was unknowingly sprayed on roads for dust control at Times Beach, MO ... Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) originally enacted in 1947 amended to strengthen pesticide registration ... EPA institutes ban on use of pesticide DDT ... Federal Water Pollution Control Act enacted in 1948 is amended establishing structure for comprehensive national program to regulate effluent discharges to all waters. ... **1973** EPA initiates actions to eliminate lead in gasoline ... **1974** Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) enacted to regulate public water supplies ... **1975** Auto manufacturers install first catalytic converters to meet emission standards ... **1976** Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) gives EPA authority to regulate chemicals produced ... Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) gives EPA broad authority to control hazardous wastes from “cradle to grave” including generation, storage, transportation and disposal ... **1977** Clean Air Act amendments revise national air quality standards and compliance requirements ... Clean Water Act amendments focus on control of toxic pollutants ... **1978** EPA institutes controls on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) ... EPA bans use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in non-essential aerosol propellants ... **1979** Train derailment at Sturgeon, MO, results in spill of ortho-chlorophenol; \$56 million settlement ... Region 7 notified by anonymous caller that waste oil containing dioxin had been applied to roadways in numerous locations in MO ... **1980** Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly referred to as Superfund) provides EPA the authority to address closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites ... **1981** New cars meet emission standards for first time ... **1982** EPA begins to regulate asbestos in schools under TSCA ... Region 7 publishes asbestos inspection manual which establishes national standards ... Region 7 confirms the presence of dioxin contamination at Times Beach, MO ... **1983** Due to extensive contamination, buyout of Times Beach, MO, is announced ... **1984** Hazardous and Solid Waste Act amends RCRA requiring phaseout of land disposal of hazardous wastes and establishing underground storage tank program ...

1985 Successful demonstration of dioxin incineration completed at Denny Farm site, MO ... **1986** Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act enacted requiring schools to inspect and manage asbestos-containing materials ... Safe Drinking Water Act amendments require disinfection of all public water systems, require filtration for surface water sources, and expand regulated contaminants ... Martha C. Rose Chemical Co, Holden, MO: PCB-contaminated materials resulting in criminal charges ... Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) provides additional enforcement authorities and settlement tools to EPA, increases state involvement and adds provisions for emergency planning and community right-to-know ... **1987** Clean Water Act amendments phase out construction grants program, and increasing attention on non-point sources of water pollution ... FIFRA amended accelerating pesticides re-registration activities ... **1988** Conservation Chemical Co, Kansas City, MO: one of first court cases involving uncontrolled hazardous waste site; 250 parties involved; \$25 million cleanup ... Cleanup decision on Times Beach, MO, finalized ... Indoor Radon Abatement Act passed ... Lead Contamination Control Act establishes program to eliminate lead-containing drinking water coolers ... **1989** EPA announces Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) database ... EPA establishes goal of “no net loss” of wetlands ... EPA bans the manufacture of most asbestos products ... **1990** Oil Pollution Act streamlines and strengthens EPA’s ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic spills ... Pollution Prevention Act passed to promote cost-effective reduction of pollution at the source ... National Environmental Education Act is passed ... Clean Air Act (CAA) amendments set timetables for reduction of acid rain, ozone layer depleting chemicals and other toxic air pollutants ... **1992** Residential Lead-Based Paint Reduction Act changes focus to hazards management ... EPA promulgates regulations to accelerate phaseout of chlorofluorocarbons (ozone layer depleting chemicals) to end of 1995 (five years earlier than originally scheduled) ... **1993** Devastating flood in Midwest: Region 7 established household hazardous waste disposal programs in areas affected, and recovered thousands of drums in 4-state area ... EPA announces Common Sense Initiative ... EPA reports secondhand smoke poses serious health risks ... **1994** Executive Order calls for actions to address environmental justice in minority and low-income populations ... EPA initiates Brownfields program to promote the process of transforming abandoned or idle sites into productive use ... **1995** “Reinventing Environmental Regulations” results in 25 EPA initiatives ... Bald eagle upgraded from endangered to threatened status ... **1996** On-site incinerator becomes operational at Times Beach, MO, to destroy dioxin-contaminated soil ... Safe Drinking Water Act amended to improve public involvement, focus on source water protection and add state funding ... **1997** On-site incineration of dioxin-contaminated soil excavated from 26 sites completed at Times Beach, MO ... **1998** Clean Water Action Plan developed jointly by several Federal agencies and intended to revitalize commitment to

preserving water resources ... Region 7 signs memorandum with Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO, to promote partnership ... Great Lakes Container Corp, St Louis, MO: cleanup marked 5,000th Superfund site completed in nation ... **1999** EPA publishes report on community-based environmental protection ... Region 7 signs agreement with Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS, to strengthen relationship ... Region 7 begins operations in new Regional Office building located in Kansas City, KS ... Proposal to remove the bald eagle from the endangered species list announced; the nation's symbol is no longer endangered after three decades of efforts (including the ban on DDT) to protect it and provide for its recovery ...